

*The voice of local law enforcement*



# Florida COPS

Official Publication of the Palm Beach County PBA

SUMMER 2019

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VIVIEN TOLLEY  
Administrative Assistant



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CFP®, APMA®, MBA  
FAMILY WEALTH ADVISOR

Our first 20 years with the PBA have been incredible.

**We have been able to help serve and protect the assets of those that serve and protect our lives.**

We are very thankful for the relationship and look forward to the continued growth and success.

**It's not you, It's we.**



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ATLANTIC WEALTH  
PARTNERS

**We are Still Here.  
We are Still Your Good Partner.**

**Our Law Enforcement Financial Planning and  
Retirement Planning Meetings are Still FREE.**

Our relationship with the Palm Beach County PBA dates to the late 90s when we were The Center for Wealth Planning. Since then we have grown significantly, from our initial LEO client, to now over 350 LEO families throughout Palm Beach and Martin Counties. Our passion and commitment to helping you and your family members remains unchanged. We have built a team of experts here to better serve your individual needs when previously it was only me. I knew that in order to continue to provide the same high quality service and support that you were accustomed to, I needed to bring on additional team members that have the same passion and focus that I do on helping you and your loved ones achieve retirement goals that you have set. We have brought on two additional Certified Financial Planners and an Accredited Asset Management Specialist to further round out our team.

- We still have no ties to brokers, financial institutions, banks, insurance or annuity companies.
- We know FRS Pension, the DROP, and FRS Investment inside and out.
- We are not compensated by anyone other than our clients.
- My team is on salary and is not incentivized to sell you products.
- We will forever maintain an unbiased approach to providing clear, accurate advice.
- We are still at the PBA several days a week.

Please come meet the team. If you don't have a retirement plan in place partner with us to create one.

**It's not you. It's we.**

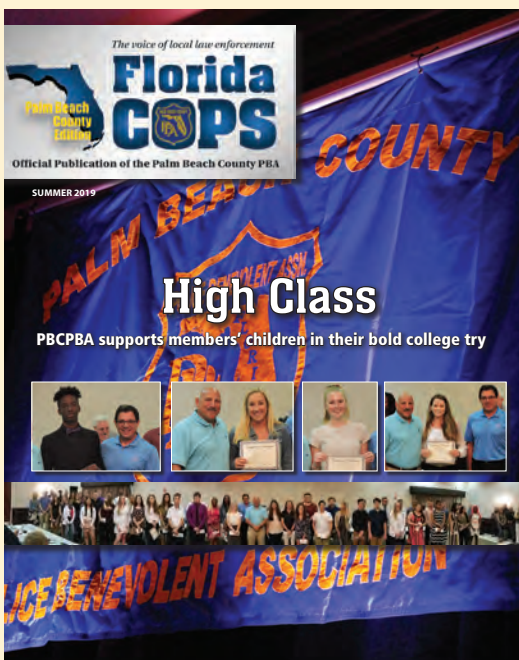
Steve Olson, CFP®, AEP®  
CEO, Family Wealth Advisor

## COVER STORY

# 14

## Making the grade

The Palm Beach County PBA Charity Fund awarded college scholarships to more than 150 daughters and sons of members in June. These students, who are at the head of their class, have achieved an incredibly high standard of excellence. And they have learned their dedication, work ethic and desire to use their education to serve from their law enforcement officer parents.



## What they bargained for

PBA members in Tequesta have endured many years of being underpaid and battling for benefits. But all of that has paid off with an unprecedented new contract .....**Page 18**

## Guiding lights

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The voice of local law enforcement  
**Florida COPS**  
 Palm Beach County Edition  
 Official Publication of the Palm Beach County PBA

Main Number: 561-757-0464

Advertising: 201-446-9369

Editorial: 201-370-4082

Distribution: 201-370-4082

Email: [floridacopsmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:floridacopsmagazine@gmail.com)

Website: [www.floridacopsmagazine.com](http://www.floridacopsmagazine.com)

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**VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3**

Florida COPS, known also as Florida Cops Magazine Palm Beach County Edition, is a publication dedicated to law enforcement and criminal justice professionals operating in Palm Beach County. ©2019 MK PUBLISHING LLC. Reproduction of any part of this magazine without express written permission is prohibited. Subscription rate: \$48 per year. Send address subscription inquiries to [floridacopsmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:floridacopsmagazine@gmail.com). Reader comments and editorial submissions are welcome, but neither the Publisher (MK Publishing LLC) nor the Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association (PBCPBA) assume any responsibility for the return of unsolicited material. The acceptance of advertisements by Florida COPS does not constitute an endorsement of the product or services advertised. Neither the Publisher, the PBCPBA, or any of their officers and/or employees, make any warranty, express or implied, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness, for a particular purpose, or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, service provider or process included in any advertisement or editorial content. The views and opinions of any advertiser or third-party content contributor do not necessarily state or reflect those of either the Publisher or the PBCPBA, and may not be used for advertising or endorsement purposes. Florida COPS, its Publishers and/or the PBCPBA assume no financial responsibility for errors in advertisements.





# CODE THREE

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# We had a Ball...again



**JOHN  
KAZANJIAN**

We are still feeling the exhilaration from the Palm Beach County PBA Police Officers' Ball weekend on June 7-8. We all got to experience the virtues that have become the foundation of being a PBA member.

The action actually started on Friday morning, when we had our annual Florida PBA state meeting at our office. Now, as many members might know, this was the first meeting I presided over as PBA state president. I am happy to report that the

gavel felt pretty good in my hands. Especially since I didn't have to use it.

That's because we have accomplished so much. Our state executive board is thinking outside the box. We have some seasoned people on the board and chapter and charter presidents who want to put in the time and the work. We also have some new blood, and we are shaking things up. What the PBA needs is some fresh ideas. And we have a lot of people who want to get involved.

We are fortunate to have added Dade County PBA President Steadman Stahl to our state board as secretary. Steadman is the type of leader who wants to shake things up, which is what we need.

We were fortunate that PBA leaders from across the state could join us for the clambake on Friday night, which really started our Ball weekend on the highest of high notes. Seeing members from agencies across the state enjoying the food, the music, a good cigar and a cold beverage with our members really enhanced that bond that makes the PBA so great.

Whether seeing an old friend or meeting a new friend, that is the key to this whole night. It really is. We went from 5:30 p.m. until after midnight, and we didn't hear one negative comment. Everybody let their hair down, let loose a little bit and talked about what's going on in the state and the county. It's kind of like a stress reliever.

That's what I want people to know about coming to the clambake. Word is getting out. I can't imagine what it's going to be like in three years. It will be as good as the Police Officers' Ball. You watch. Make sure you get there early from now on.

Before the Ball, we had a chance to gather again for lunch by the pool on Saturday afternoon. Geoff Bichler and Paolo Longo from the law firm Bichler Longo sponsored the lunch, and it was really a home run.

This is another tribute to our members that so many busi-

nesses want to lend their support to the weekend. Please allow me to extend my thanks to Lincoln Financial, SWBC Mortgage Corp., G4S, Trustmark Insurance, Atlantic Wealth Partners and many others for their sponsorship. And a special thanks to Nationwide Mortgage for providing the hand-rolled cigars, which really added something special to the clambake.

Speaking of thank-you notes, let me send out one more to our girl Nickole at the PGA National Resort, who came up with the idea for the new setup at the Police Officers' Ball. We used to have the reception and silent auction in the lobby outside the ballroom.

Nickole suggested moving it out of the hot, sweaty lobby into a nice big room. It was cool with the way we were able to pack the room with so many great auction items that raised money for our scholarship fund. We just kept elevating the exhilaration of the weekend.

We also had some new additions to the Ball that made the night even more memorable. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Pipes and Drums performed an eight-minute set to get the event off to a roaring start.

And we were graced by the presence of Pat Lynch, president of the Police Benevolent Association of the City of New York. Pat is one of the most dynamic law enforcement union presidents in the country, and he really got everybody's attention. (Read the story on page 23 for more about President Lynch's powerful message.)

I can't believe it's been 12 years since we started the Ball. It seems like the first one just happened yesterday. We have evolved from Mar-a-Lago to the Ritz-Carlton to the PGA National Resort, which is by far the best venue we've ever had for the entire weekend. I believe our members had a great time getting to know their fellow officers and those who support them.

We are still feeling it.

As always, thank you for your service, and please be safe!

*Kaz*

JOHN KAZANJIAN

PBCPBA PRESIDENT

# PALM BEACH COUNTY PBA

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Kathy, Office Assistant

Shannon, Office Assistant

Wendy, Special Events Coordinator

---

Several of our members have incorrect information on file with the PBA office. Please check with your fellow officers to see if they receive the magazine and if not, please email [angela@pbcpcb.org](mailto:angela@pbcpcb.org) to update your information.



**Visit our  
website at  
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James Louis  
Christopher Nebbeling, Alt.  
Jay Donde, Alt.





## Draft bill to address critical stress management



**LOU  
PENQUE  
TREASURER**

There is a bill we are attempting to write and pass in the upcoming legislative session.

A few months ago, Lieutenant Sterling Kihei, the wellness officer for the city of West Palm Beach, began planning the implementation of a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team.

Comprised of fellow coworkers, the team will provide programs and services related to the education, prevention and mitigation of the effects of exposure to highly stressful critical incidents. The services will be provided by individuals certified to provide group crisis intervention, individual crisis intervention, peer support and related services.

Our main goal for drafting a bill regarding this service is to ensure that communication between emergency responders and the CISM team is kept confidential and may not be disclosed in any civil, criminal or administrative proceeding.

This type of team will provide our members with alternatives. If they are not comfortable discussing issues with a stranger, they may choose this peer-to-peer option.

There are similar teams established throughout the country and some do have this protection in place.

We will be using that legislation to help us develop this bill, which will cover the following personnel:

- Law enforcement officers

- Correction officers
- Firefighters
- Dispatchers
- EMTs
- Emergency management personnel
- Any employee required to respond to critical incidents

Training required to become a peer-to-peer counselor consists of two courses that are provided by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. Each course is two days and provides 27 continuing education units (CEUs).

As a reminder, and for those members who are not aware, the PBA does have a licensed clinical therapist on retainer for our membership.

If you require this type of service and are not comfortable with the service your employer is providing, please see one of your union representatives. They can schedule you for a referral to our therapist, Melissa Schwartz, who is in Wellington. Her service is offered at no out-of-pocket cost to you (after insurance).

If you have any questions, you can also contact me.

If you have any ideas for this or other legislation that you feel the PBA should support, please contact me or one of your elected representatives.

Thank you all, and be safe out there.

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# What to expect during an IA investigation



ANGELA  
BARBOSA

You've just been made aware that an internal affairs (IA) investigation into your alleged conduct is underway. Don't panic.

Your agency will serve you with a formal notice or "complaint." The allegation may be vague, or you may know exactly what it's about. Either way, call the PBA immediately so that your case can be assigned to an attorney.

Each case is different, so the specifics of your case need to be discussed with your attorney.

However, here is a general blueprint of what to expect during the IA process:

## Before the IA investigation

The PBA will notify the agency that we represent you with regard to your IA investigation. This will keep the agency from contacting you directly about the pending investigation. If the case also has a criminal component, your IA will be "tolled," or on hold, until the criminal case has concluded.

You will meet with your PBA lawyer to discuss the facts of your case and any possible defenses. Conversations with your attorney are privileged. Aside from your lawyer, do not discuss the matter with anyone else, as that may be a separate policy violation.

## The IA

By the time you go into IA to give your statement, the inves-

tigator should have completed 99 percent of the investigation. Why? Because under the Police Officers' Bill of Rights, the investigator has to provide you with all memoranda, sworn statements from witnesses, documents, videos or anything else that he or she has compiled or reviewed in the investigation.

You will be provided as much time as you need, whether it's 15 minutes or 15 hours, to review all of the evidence with your attorney. You play an important role in this review because you will be far more familiar with some documents, for example, CAD entries or blue teams, than your attorney.

Your attorney will prepare you to answer the questions that the investigator will likely ask and further discuss the case with you. The agency has the burden of proof, but keep in mind that the burden of proof in most cases is a *preponderance of the evidence* — which means it's more likely than not that you violated the policy in question (or, in numerical form, more than 50 percent).

When you're ready, the investigator will step into the room with a tape recorder. He or she will read from a script and inform you that you are being compelled to give a statement and that you are required to tell the truth. You can be disciplined up to and including termination for being untruthful during an official investigation.

He or she will also read you your *Garrity* rights and have you sign off that you understand those rights. Your attorney will have previously explained your *Garrity* rights to you, but in short, nothing you say during the course of the administrative investigation can be used against you in criminal court, unless you lie or obstruct justice. This is especially important in cases that have a criminal component.

Once you have been sworn in, the investigator will begin asking the questions. When answering, a good rule of thumb is to listen carefully to the question asked, answer only the question asked, and answer truthfully to the best of your knowledge.

If you don't remember something or do not know the answer, it's completely acceptable to state that you do not remember or do not know. Do not ramble. Diarrhea of the mouth never turns out well for the employee.

During the questioning, your attorney is there to help clarify any matters that need to come to light. Investigators may not ask the right questions to elicit the crucial information needed to exonerate you of the charges. That's where your attorney will step in and ask you the right questions.

## After the IA statement

Once the statement has concluded, it's a waiting game. The IA investigator will take his or her time in compiling the summary of all the evidence and deciding whether or not to sustain the violation based on the evidence.

In most departments, the IA investigator makes only factual findings before sending the findings up the chain of command in IA, and ultimately the chain of command in the department — all the way up to the chief or sheriff, to make a decision on discipline if you have been sustained on the violation. If you are sustained on the violation and receive any discipline, you will be entitled to a name-clearing hearing with whoever decided your discipline.

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***For more information or to register your company for this important meeting, please contact  
James Baiardi at the Florida PBA via e-mail at: [jimmy@flpba.org](mailto:jimmy@flpba.org)***

# Board of Directors Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, March 19, 2019

## Executive Board of Directors

John Kazanjian.....X  
 Ernest W. George.....X  
 Rick McAfee.....X  
 Lou Penque .....X  
 Kevin Igo.....X  
 Greg Allen .....Excused  
 Vinnie Gray .....X  
 Larry Fagan .....X  
 Rick King .....X  
 Angela Barbosa .....X  
 Brennan Keeler .....X

## Boynton Beach

Cory Herny.....Excused  
 Daniel Dugger.....X  
 Rayner De Los Rios.....0  
 Jermaine Jones.....Excused

## Delray Beach

Meer Deen.....X  
 Edward McCabe.....X  
 Vincent Gray .....X  
 Gary Ferreri .....X  
 Aaron Siegel, Alt. ....Excused  
 Brian Cambell, Alt. ....Excused

## FAU

William Hernandez .....Excused  
 Miguel Cardona, Alt. ....0

## Highland Beach

Rick Wentz.....Excused  
 David Scherer Jr., Alt. ....Excused

## Juno Beach

Michael Graham .....Excused  
 Jorge Carvajal, Appt. Alt. ....0  
 Kevin Coppin, Appt. ....X

## Jupiter

Scott Kimbark .....Excused  
 Jonathan Gentile.....X  
 Salvatore Mattino .....X  
 Paul Gundlach, Alt. ....X  
 Jason Alexandre, Alt. ....X

## Jupiter Island

Matthew Potsko, Appt. ....Excused

## Lake Clarke Shores

John Connacher.....X  
 Antonio Gerena, Alt. ....0

## Lantana

Shawn Johnson .....X  
 Troy Schaaf, Alt. ....X

## Manalapan

Palm Beach County PBA .....

## MCSO - Law Enforcement

Karl Nelson.....X  
 Jon Hanton .....0  
 Bradley Spencer .....X  
 Michael McMahan.....X  
 Kenneth Youngblood.....X  
 William Weiss, Alt. ....0  
 James Holloran, Alt. ....X  
 Andrew Porcelli, Appt. ....X

## MCSO - Corrections

Michael Trimble.....X  
 Samuel Haidy .....X  
 Dean Mihalko .....0  
 Edward Burke.....Excused  
 William Evans .....X  
 Lawrence Lutrin, Alt. ....X  
 Thomas Randazzo, Alt. ....X

## Martin County Tax Collector

George Sterner .....0

## North Palm Beach

Joseph Yungk.....X

## Ocean Ridge

Jimmy Pilon.....  
 Mario Galluscio, Alt. ....Excused

## School Police (Palm Beach County)

Kevin O'Sullivan .....X  
 James Wilkerson Jr. ....X  
 Alexander Lopez .....Excused  
 Michael Lynch, Appt. ....X

## PBSO - Law Enforcement

Daniel Glisson.....Excused  
 Carlos Ugalde.....X  
 Michael Kennedy.....X  
 Layford "Brandon" West.....X  
 Marlow "Butch" Altonen, Alt. ....X  
 Kevin Lindardos, Alt. ....X  
 William Gale, Appt. Alt. ....X  
 John Kazanjian II, Appt. ....X  
 Alex Nunes, Appt. ....Excused  
 Jason Johnson, Appt. ....X  
 Cory Gray, Appt. ....X  
 Ruben Cruz, Appt. ....X  
 Michael Sasson, Appt. ....X  
 John McGuire, Appt. ....X  
 Anthony Johnson, Appt. ....X  
 Matt DeJoy, Appt. ....Excused  
 Dan Burrows, Appt. ....Excused  
 Chris Caris, Appt. ....X

## PBSO - Corrections

Barry Hilton.....0  
 Michael Santoro.....X  
 William Pinto .....X

Melvin Cribbs.....X  
 Thomas Jordan .....X  
 Cheryl Melvin, Alt. ....X  
 Gwendolyn Wattley, Alt. ....X  
 Robert Tozzi, Appt. ....X  
 Daniel Russell, Appt. ....Excused

## PBSO - Civilians

Sallyann Josef.....Excused  
 John Costello .....X  
 Kristen Kazanjian .....X  
 Amy Cisco.....X  
 Heriberto Aviles .....X  
 Abby Bernstein, Alt. ....X  
 Janet Zink, Alt. ....X  
 Tequesta McKinney James, Appt. ....X  
 Kayai Graham, Appt. ....X  
 Ray Griffith, Appt. ....X

## Palm Beach Gardens

Randy Buntin .....Excused  
 Peter Reynolds .....Excused  
 Brian Tiyaloglu.....X  
 Christopher Baez .....Excused  
 Brian Nauss, Alt. ....X  
 Dorian Hawkins, Alt. ....X

## Palm Beach Shores

Blasé Pfefferkorn.....Excused  
 Darrell Russian, Appt. Alt. ....X

## Palm Springs

Louis Collura .....0  
 Khashayar Khatami, Alt. ....X

## Riviera Beach

Jeremy Summers.....X  
 Nir Mordechay .....X  
 Michael Brown.....X  
 Kenneth Jones, Alt. ....X

## South Palm Beach

Jason LaForte .....X  
 Adam Farrish, Alt. ....X  
 Adolfe Alexandre, Appt. ....X

## Stuart

David Duran, Appt'd.....0  
 Christopher Ruediger, Appt. Alt. ....0

## Tequesta

Raymond Korkowski.....X

## West Palm Beach

Dennis Hardiman .....X  
 Joseph Herb.....X  
 Michael Ferrera.....X  
 Charles Branch .....X  
 James Louis .....0  
 Christopher Nebbeling, Alt. ....Excused  
 Jay Donde, Alt. ....X



# Welcome, New PBCPBA Members

## MAY 2019

NAME	AGENCY		
CODY BROWN	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	TYLER CAMUS	PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
MICHAEL MCCARTHY	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	KIRK COOK	PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
LARRY MACKEY JR.	FAU	LAZARO CREAGH	PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
JEFFREY SIMONS	PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE	ROBERT HOFFECKER	PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
MICHAEL MORGADO	PBSO		
VICTORIA EBEL	PBSO	MATTHEW MARTEL	PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
FRANCISCO LASAGA	JUPITER ISLAND	MARTHA LOPEZ	PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE
CALVIN ROBINSON JR.	TEQUESTA	SCOTT WARMINGTON	PALM BEACH GARDENS
JONATHAN BENNETT	RIVIERA BEACH	PAUL AFRICANO	PALM BEACH SHORES
ULISES CALDERON	RIVIERA BEACH	RYAN COOK	TEQUESTA
CHRISTOPHER PEREZ	NORTH PALM BEACH	DEVON HARTWELL	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
COURTNEY HAMMOND	OCEAN RIDGE	MICHAEL UMANZOR	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NIKOLE JAIMUNGAL	OCEAN RIDGE	MICHAEL VITELLO	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JESSICA SIMPSON	OCEAN RIDGE	MARIA CAMACHO-RUBIO	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
THEODORE WILLIAMS	DELRAY BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT	JOHN MURPHY III	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
LYNDSAY FLORA	BOYNTON BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT	JAMES EDWARDS	MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JASMINE GREEN	PALM BEACH GARDENS	IIADEN LAUREANO II	FAU
ROGEL DOMINGUEZ	LAKE CLARKE SHORES	JONATHAN SAAT	FAU
		LEONARD CRAWFORD	JUPITER
		THEODORE DELANCY	STUART
		COREY LEE	STUART
		ANGELO PALMIERI III	STUART
		JOSEPH PONTE	STUART
		DEVON TAYLOR	STUART
		MICHAEL DACEY	STUART
		JANNETH ROGEL-CARINO	STUART
		JOSHUA SCHWARZ	STUART
		ROBENSON SONY	FAU
		JOSHUA BASANTE	MANALAPAN

## JUNE 2019

NAME	AGENCY		
LIMERE JOHNSON	PBSO		
JACQUELINE PHILIPS	PBSO		
ERIC MORKERT	PBSO		
JASON BERGMAN	PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE		
DAVID BODENHEIMER	PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE		

## Honoring Retired Members

NAME	AGENCY	RETIREMENT DATE
KURT KLOEPPING	PBSO	MAY 31, 2019

## Remembering Members who have passed

NAME	AGENCY	DATE OF PASSING
JASON TAYLOR	PBSO	MAY 6, 2019
CHARLES NICASTRO JR.	RETIRED POLICE OFFICER	JUNE 21, 2019

# News from your Reps

## Reports from Palm Beach County and Martin County units

### South Palm Beach



On June 18, the town of South Palm Beach became the first intercoastal town to merge with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO).

South Palm Beach unit reps are very proud of this major accomplishment. It was a long and arduous process. The Palm Beach County PBA was there to support South Palm Beach from the very beginning. All PBA reps and members should know that we can achieve the impossible when we work together.

### Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office – Civilian Unit

We are happy to report that we had almost 100 percent sign up during the last new-hire orientation. That being the case, as

union representatives, we need to do more to increase membership.

There is an estimated 60 percent of civilians who are members. The participation from the civilian group should be much higher. We cannot actively recruit while on duty, so please keep in mind that these people are at the mercy of their employment.

We had two great successes this past month. Working with one group, the petition to raise their base step was approved by the sheriff. This would not have happened without the cooperation of all involved.

In addition, an employee was moved to a much more comfortable location. We almost lost a good employee because of the treatment by management.

The employees involved in both situations send their gratitude to the PBA. Keeping up positive work for our employees does produce positive results. We have issues on the table, and there will be more successes in the future.

### Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office



On April 13, the PBSO Bomb Squad hosted a special event for the Lighthouse for the Blind school. Bomb squad detectives created special beeping Easter eggs to allow the students of the Lighthouse program to participate in an Easter tradition that many had never enjoyed before. The beeping eggs allowed visually impaired students to go out and hunt for eggs.

Detectives were excited to use their skills to benefit the community. The children and parents were overjoyed at being able to participate in an Easter egg hunt.

The International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators provided the materials to create the eggs, and the bomb squad provided goody bags and candy for the children.

### Martin County Sheriff's Office

A beach-loving boxer has a new set of heroes and plenty to bark about after a close call in the water on July 2.

The playful water-pup was in the water along Hobe Sound Beach and ended up three-quarters of a mile off shore. His owners did everything they could to rescue him, but the current was



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too strong.

MCSO Marine Deputy Michael Joseph and Deputy Justin Lundstedt and Martin County Ocean Rescue Team Lifeguard Joe Ryan began searching for the animal and located him just in the nick of time. The deputies got the exhausted dog aboard the boat and returned him to his owners.



### Riviera Beach Police Department

In June, the Riviera Beach Police Community-Oriented Policing Unit and school resource officers participated in the "Food for Thought Community Conversation," which was hosted by Valerie Grimsley and her staff at the Youth Empowerment Center.

The group discussion included the following:

- General police encounters and how to demonstrate compliance with law enforcement officers.
- Juvenile issues and the best practices to avoid them.
- General criminal and traffic laws law enforcement officers encounter.



- Crime trends in our community involving juveniles during the summer months.

The audience consisted of young adults up to 20 years old. The other participants included Councilwoman Dr. Julia Botel and several parents. Volunteers from the audience participated in role-play scenarios, which demonstrated what to do and not to do when approached by law enforcement officers.

Our audience was highly enthused and interested in the discussions and activities. The feedback we received after the event was, "When can we do this again?"

A photograph of three people (two women and one man) sitting around a table, looking at a laptop and discussing documents. The setting appears to be a professional office or meeting space.

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# Honor Students

## Growing up in law enforcement families helps PBCPBA scholarship winners ascend to unprecedented heights

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Volunteering at Quantum House in West Palm Beach helped Lianna Mullins take a quantum leap toward following in the footsteps of her father, Palm Beach County School Police Officer James Mullins. With a springboard from a Palm Beach County PBA scholarship.

When she was in high school, Lianna met families of children being treated at a medical facility in the West Palm area. Quantum House provides temporary lodging and emotional support to families. It is where hope has a home. She had the humbling opportunity to work with kids who were left with prosthetic limbs.

As a mechanical engineering student at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, Lianna has set a career goal to develop prosthetics that can be specially fitted, and at a low cost to the patient. Children and veterans would be the beneficiaries. Like Quantum House, she wants to bring hope.

"I want to help people who need help and can't help themselves," Lianna declares.

Sure sounds like a cop. Lianna no doubt has been inspired by her father's career in law enforcement. She no doubt shares that supreme attribute with the other daughters and sons of members who were awarded scholarships at the PBCPBA meeting on June 17.

"I definitely think being a cop's daughter has made me who I am today," adds Lianna, who was honored with the PBA Charity Fund Scholarship.

"He has taught me to look at the bigger picture. To know what it takes to get to a certain level. He has set the foundation in my life to be as successful as I can be."

The 2019 PBC scholarship winners are not just following in their parents' footsteps. They are stepping up beyond them.

They are young women and men who are artists and dancers. They are community volunteers and National Honor Society members. They are leaders in drug prevention programs. They are varsity athletes who are playing sports in college. They have won awards for their character. They have created their own fundraising programs that have generated thousands of dollars in donations. They are one or two years into college and have posted grade-point averages of 3.6 or higher.

They have written whirlwind essays that left members of the PBA scholarship committee in awe. Then, they blew them

### A look at the 2019 PBA Scholarship winners

#### Jaydon Graves

##### 1st Place Brian Chappell Memorial Scholarship

- Attending: Florida A&M University
- Course of Study: Engineering
- Year: Freshman

#### Abigail Kalil

##### 2nd Place: Brain Chappell Memorial Scholarship

- Attending: University of Florida
- Course of Study: Pre-Med
- Year: Freshman

#### Lianna Mullins

##### 1st Place PBA Charity Fund Scholarship

- Attending: Purdue University
- Course of Study: Polytechnic Mechanical Engineering
- Year: Sophomore

#### Taylor Murray

##### 1st Place Kaitlin Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship

- Attending: Florida State University
- Course of Study: Finance
- Year: Sophomore

#### Leah Wilson-Griffith

##### 2nd Place Kaitlin Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship

- Attending: University of Florida
- Course of Study: Dance and Criminology
- Year: Freshman



The daughters and sons of PBC PBA members who were awarded 2019 PBA scholarships.





away with interviews that showed they are wise beyond their years.

"Yes, these kids just blew me away," praises PBCPBA President John Kazanjian. "They're going to Duke, Harvard, Clemson, Florida, Florida State, Notre Dame – we have seen it all. We have kids going to West Point and Annapolis. We have been contacted about congressional endorsements for the service academies. We have a group that really has succeeded."

There's no doubt that this year's winners continue the PBCPBA scholarship tradition of living up to the standards their parents have set. The more than 130 2019 recipients who received more than \$100,000 in awards generated from the Kaitlin's Angel Run, Oldies Night at the Cars of Dreams Museum, the Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Scholarship Golf Tournament, the Police Officers' Ball and almost daily fundraising activities each possess attributes that present the influence of growing up with a mom or dad in law enforcement.

"They definitely get it a little more," explains Chuck Branch, a West Palm Beach member who was part of the PBCPBA scholarship committee this year. "They come from good, strong families that keep them on a straight path, which is a huge plus. They know if they work hard, they will get rewarded."

### Not afraid to put in the extra work

Nobody might understand the value of a PBA scholarship more than Leah Wilson-Griffith. Her father, Ray Griffith, retired from PBSO in 2016. But he liked working so much that he went back to the sheriff's office as a civilian employee in 2017.

Ray's other job is leading the Palm Beach County PBA Grill Team, which serves up the tantalizing fare at all the fundraising events. One of his assistants at many of these events has been Leah.

If any of the scholarship winners were channeling Kaitlin, it probably would have been Leah. She earned the second-place award for the Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship. Taylor Murray earned the first-place award for the Kaitlin scholarship.

"It was definitely a big honor because of having been involved with the PBA so much," Leah related. "It's nice to be recognized in Kaitlin's honor."

Leah's mother, Kimberley Wilson, is also on with PBSO. Leah is carrying on the family tradition, which includes her older sister Lindsay, who works in the intelligence section of PBSO as an analyst. Leah is double majoring at the University of Florida in criminology and dance.

She applied the art of fundraising she learned from the PBA while still in high school through dance. As a student at the Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, Leah helped start a dance marathon that raised \$13,000.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Taylor Murray won the Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship first-place award.



Lianna Mullins, daughter of Palm Beach School District Police member James Mullins, earned the PBC PBA Scholarship.



Leah Wilson-Griffith won the Kaitlin A. Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship second-place award.





PBCPBA Vice President Rick McAfee announces the names of the scholarship winners.

#### HONOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Leah attributed her stand-up ways to her exposure to the family business.

"Everyone knows my mom and dad and knows they have worked for everything they have," she adds. "I hope I have their work ethic. I want to be the type of person who tackles things head on and is not afraid to put in the extra work."

Ray, of course, was immeasurably proud of Leah for earning such distinction from the PBA. But he was also honored that Leah, like many of the scholarship winners, represents a standard for the next generation of the PBA.

"She gets the big picture. She has good street smarts and the will to survive," Ray describes. "I really believe in what we do, and it's great to see these kids reap the benefits of it."

#### What we're here for

Awarding one of the Brian Chappell Memorial Scholarships to Abigail Kalil emphasizes the significance of these honors. Kalil earned the second-place award. The first-place honor went to Jaydon Graves.

Brian Chappell was a West Palm Beach police officer who was shot and killed in the line of duty on Aug. 22, 1988. A motorcycle officer, Chappell made a traffic stop on that hot afternoon. The driver was an escapee from a prison work-release program.

This senseless murder of a police officer set in motion the most intense manhunt ever experienced in local law enforcement. When the detectives on the case first began the investigation, they made a pact to have the murderer in custody before Chappell was laid to rest. Through a combination of diligent detective work, citizen cooperation and teamwork, detectives put the cuffs on Norberto "Spiderman" Pietri a day before Chappell's funeral.

One of the police cadets helping out that day was West Palm Beach Officer Tony Kalil, Abigail's father. He helped set up phone banks, worked in dispatch and did whatever he could to help find the killer.

"We didn't go home until the job was done," Tony remembers. "I'll never forget that day."

In the circle of law enforcement life, Tony could not have asked for more than having Abigail honored in Chappell's memory. A freshman at the University of Florida, Abigail earned a special degree from Dwyer High School in Palm Beach Gardens known as the International Baccalaureate (IB).



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The IB focuses on teaching students to think critically and independently, and how to inquire with care and logic.

At the awards ceremony, Tony felt an elation that came not just from Abigail always studying to earn the recognition. He saw how the PBA support really does make a difference.

"It's great to see them giving back, especially for our future," he notes. "A lot of officers sacrifice their lives to see their kids excel and do well. It reminds us what we're here for. We're building a community."

#### Driving toward the common goal

The PBA hall transformed into a majestic community on June 17. The daughters and sons of members formed a perimeter around half the room. One by one, PBCPBA Vice President Rick McAfee called the names of those receiving awards. One by one, Kaz and Treasurer Lou Penque greeted the recipients, bestowed the awards and posed for pictures.

When Mullins didn't hear her name right away, she thought there was a mistake. James thought it might be a clerical error and wondered if he should tell the PBA that his daughter had been missed. But he deferred to the lessons he has always taught his daughters.

"We're a law-and-order family," James reasons. "I always tell my daughter that unless it's illegal, immoral or unethical, just do it. We have tried to raise her to be polite, respect people and respect laws and rules."

Nothing less would be expected from a cop's kid. Lianna built off those lessons to earn a scholarship to play softball at Purdue. Pursuing her dream now includes getting the day started at 5:30 a.m. and working through the last study hall, until nearly 11 p.m. To pursue her dream, Lianna left the Florida sunshine for the cold and snow of the Midwest.

"I didn't know what ice scrapers and black ice were," she



PBCPBA Treasurer Lou Penque hands the awards to the scholarship winners. quips. "The kids from the warmer states have really come to rely on our team-issued parkas."

But the National Honor Society student in high school has not been deterred by the schedule or the cold because of what she learned from her father.

"I am very driven in everything that I do, and he has taught me basically everything I know about leadership and about having the backs of the people around you," Lianna shares. "I've learned that everything you do is driving toward the common goal."

And as you would expect from a cop's kid, Lianna joined her fellow recipients in being nothing less than humbled by being honored in this room on this night.

"When they called me up, I just stopped and looked around the room," she recalls. "I saw all the officers in uniform and thought, 'Is this really happening?' They are putting their lives on the line and still finding a way to give back to the kids that need it and are looking to be something in life."



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# Contract High

## Tequesta PBA members secure unprecedented salary increase in new collective bargaining agreement

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Three years ago, Tequesta Police Officers did not have a pension. During the previous 12 years, 26 people left the department. That's a department with 17 officers. And the village that ranked No. 1 in safety in Palm Beach County had the 28th-highest average salary of 31 agencies in the county.

But after the village approved a new contract on July 11, PBA members in Tequesta celebrated an astonishing and record-setting journey of going from low to high. Not only are Tequesta officers back in the pension, but when the contract takes effect in October, every officer in the department will get a 13 percent raise in the first year of a three-year deal that offers a 20 percent overall salary increase.

"This is a humongous win," Tequesta PBA Unit Rep Ray Korkowski declared. "Our last two officers of the year left for better agencies, but now with this new contract, things are awesome up here."

The village at the northern tip of Palm Beach County with a population of 8,000 people had become a training ground for officers to neighboring departments offering better salaries and benefits. Attrition hit the department and the village harder than any crime wave ever could.



But PBA members took political action the past three years and helped elect members to the village council who are pro-police. The village eventually recognized what the attrition was doing to public safety and quality of life. So, with some advocacy from new chief Gus Medina, what is believed to be the highest single-year increase in PBA collective bargaining history came to fruition.

"I think this is a win for both PBA members and the village," commented Brennan Keeler, the PBCPBA attorney who represented Tequesta in the contract negotiations. "There was mutual recognition that, 'We have a problem and let's solve it.' The village was losing officers to other agencies because they weren't competitive with salaries and benefits. The current administration and the elected council saw that. They wanted to stop the attrition and make themselves competitive with the market."

The road to the contract that included a 4 percent increase in year two, a 3 percent increase in year three and also raised the pay ranges for all officers, including sergeants, actually began three years ago. The unit first recaptured the defined benefits plan it had agreed to give up. Korkowski and former unit rep Aaron Johnson, who was promoted to sergeant recently, then heeded some advice they received from the PBA.

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"I remember [PBA attorney] Larry Fagan telling us that if we didn't get any of our people elected to the council, we weren't going to get anything," Korkowski explained.

So the Tequesta members took political action. They went door-to-door and made the rounds on street corners to advocate for their candidates. Two of those – Vice Mayor Kristi Johnson and Laurie Brandon – were elected to the council in 2018.

This year, the PBA backed Kyle Stone, a member of the pension board, to unseat a council member who had a longstanding record of not being favorable to law enforcement. In the previous election, the other candidate had won by 100 votes. With PBA support, Stone unseated him by 500 votes.

"It was the first time the PBA had ever gotten somebody to run against those old-timers," Korkowski added. "We finally had some people on the council who could explain why we deserve what we do."

Tequesta PBA members followed that up by mustering a strong presence at the contract negotiating sessions. There was back and forth with the village trying a low ball offer, but the members stood their ground. That culminated with most of the members attending the council meeting the night the vote came up to approve the contract.

Another steppingstone to approval proved to be Medina, who took over as chief in April 2018. When he was hired, Medina stated he wanted to emphasize training and keep the department from being a training ground for officers for other agencies.

"He went to the village manager and told him that officers were not getting paid what they should be," Korkowski detailed. "With the chief on our side, the council said, 'You're right.' He told them starting pay had to go up and everything else had to increase as well."

The outcome of the new contract is what every village strives



for with its public safety structure. With market-comparable pay and benefits taking effect in October, the village will be able to keep its senior officers, who know the ins and outs of policing in Tequesta.

Korkowski noted that members are now more motivated than ever to pursue the kind of policing that has always made Tequesta residents happy. It's the proactive work, and the little odds and ends like finding a lost dog in the street, putting it in the back of the patrol car and driving it home.

And the pain Tequesta has endured could very well help all other PBA collective bargaining units in Palm Beach and Martin counties.

"If you compare law enforcement to any other profession, it's an open marketplace," Keeler reasoned. "When you're looking to pay salary, benefits and retirement, you're not just looking at one agency. I'm in negotiations with multiple agencies, and I think all of them are realizing that salary ranges and pay scales are outdated. You want to be able to attract the best candidates, and to do that, an agency has to be able to offer a competitive package."

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Delray Beach PBA members at the Candlelight Vigil during National Police Week 2019.



## Bonded by the Lights

### Reveling in the honor, tribute and camaraderie of National Police Week

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Candle lights burning from one end of the National Mall to the Washington Monument; more than 30,000 of them held high as tributes to fallen law enforcement officers and those who put their lives on the line every day. Walking into Kelly's Irish Times in downtown D.C. to share a pint, hug an officer you have never met before and feel the brotherhood. Hearing the president speak genuine support for those who enforce the rule of law. Etching the names of officers from your department lost in the line of duty that are inscribed on the wall at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Feeling pride in what you do that you don't get going to work every day. Realizing you are part of something bigger than yourself.

Here is the power and the glory of National Police Week. Here is what Palm Beach County PBA members from Delray Beach cherished about their visit to National Police Week 2019. Actually, all of the above and a once-in-a-lifetime event for a DBPD homicide detective and his law enforcement officer son epitomized the attraction of National Police Week.

"It's one of those things that you have to do to feel the camaraderie, to feel the brotherhood, to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice," reasoned Gary Ferreri, the Delray Beach unit rep who was part of his department's contingent this year, his 10th trip to National Police Week. "Every year that you go back, it reju-

venates you and gets your head back in the game. It's good to talk to other officers and hear the war stories from across the country and the world. I've made lifelong friendships from going there."

The power of Police Week has given Ferreri a worldwide social network. He has been to weddings of two officers he met there. He went to an Oktoberfest in Germany with two officers he met from an agency just outside of Munich. During a trip to Copenhagen this past March, he connected with two officers from Sweden he met in Washington, D.C.

And the power of Police Week 2019 provided the experience for Delray Beach Detective Joe Hart to culminate his 30-year career that is leading to retirement in December. Hart had been wanting to journey to Police Week for several years. He had considered going last year, but his son, Steven, was graduating from the academy and coming on as an officer with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

So, right then and there, Hart planned to finally make the trip this year.

"Knowing he wanted to do it, I wanted to wait to go to Washington until I could go with my son," Hart explained. "This was the only time we could go together and both be in uniform."

Although Joe had pinned Steven's badge on him at his academy graduation, they had another impromptu pinning ceremony when getting dressed in their Class As for the Candlelight Vigil



More than 30,000 people held up candles to honor fallen police officers at the Candlelight Vigil.



with the Delray Beach officers. The Vigil was held on May 13 at the National Mall, and it is the event when the names of fallen officers from the previous year are called, and afterward, each of the 30,000-plus people who attend light a candle in their memory.

Officers muster for the Vigil up to three hours before it begins. It is where so many friendships are made. Joe and Steven met game wardens from across the country, including New Hampshire Game Warden Kris MacCabe, star of the Animal Planet television show "North Woods Law." Talk about the power of Police Week.

"Steven and Kris hit it off, exchanged numbers and that tells you how this absolutely is a brotherhood," Joe commented. "Everyone you see is immediately your brother. You never have to introduce yourself."

The next day, Joe and Steven joined Delray Beach officers at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, where they saw the names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice inscribed on the two walls lining each side of the memorial. Two of those are Delray Beach Sergeant Adam Rosenthal (End of Watch: Feb. 17, 2011) and Officer John Kennedy (End of Watch: Aug. 10, 1974).

The custom at the Memorial is to etch the names with a pencil on a piece of paper and bring the nameplate back to post at the department. From the Vigil to the Memorial to hearing President Trump speak at the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on May 15 at the U.S. Capitol, National Police Week 2019 not only offered a chance for Joe to ceremoniously pass the torch to Steven, but also served as a baptism for both.

"The respect that officers get there, you can't really describe the feeling," Joe observed. "My son got to see how people truly feel and respect law enforcement these days. It's almost an eerie experience that brings chills and goosebumps."

Luis Skeberis, the commander of the Delray Beach Honor Guard that sends two to four officers to Police Week each year,



Delray Beach Detective Joe Hart (right) attended National Police Week for the first time with his son, Steven, a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officer.

felt goosebumps even though this was his fourth trip to D.C. this year. Still, this one might have been extra special since Skeberis is being deployed to military duty for 18 months in Djibouti in October.

Part of the detail this year was to leave Delray Beach Honor Guard challenge coins at the wall for Rosenthal and Kennedy. They also went to the National Law Enforcement Museum, which opened this past October. The museum includes an exhibit where visitors can write digital messages to fallen officers that will be there forever, and they did so for their fallen department members.

Skeberis left Police Week this year with a perspective that emphasized why all officers should attend at least once in their careers.

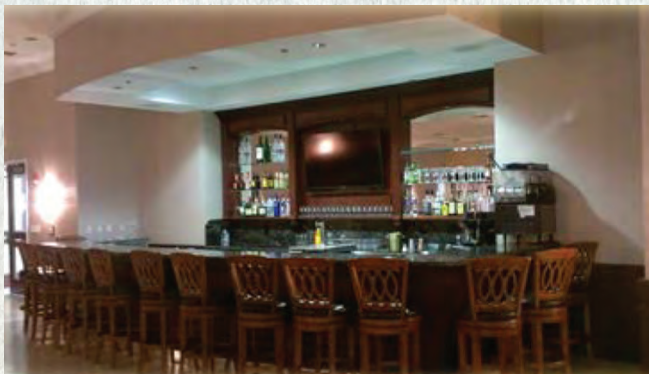
"You realize you are part of something bigger than your department, and it's crazy how easy it is to bond with somebody when you share the same emotions," he described. "It makes you think more about your family and the people you work with and appreciate them more. It makes you realize that what you are doing makes a difference and that you are fighting the good fight."



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## 12th Annual PBCPBA Police Officers' Ball

The PBSO Pipes & Drums presented a rousing set to start the 12th annual Palm Beach County PBA Police Officers' Ball.

# Legends of the Ball



A night of tributes, recognition, motivational messages, honored guests and some good humor at the PBCPBA Ball

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

■ PHOTO COURTESY OF L.E.O. VIDEOS

Mixing a touching tribute to a fallen best friend, the reverberating beat of a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) Pipes & Drums performance, a new, cooler-in-every-way setup for the reception and silent auction, an unprecedented declaration from the sheriff, the presence of esteemed law enforcement labor leaders from throughout Florida, the blue bulldog and some unforgettable one-liners made the 12th annual Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association (PBCPBA) Police Officers' Ball more than an annual crusade. It has become a celebration of service, of members who have given so much, of support and adulation for law enforcement and the PBA.

From the display of oil paintings by artist David Banegas, including a brilliant work of an eagle on an American flag, to the climactic announcement of the Officers of the Year, the 2019 Police Officers' Ball at the PGA National Resort on June 7 featured one example after another of bravery and one moment after another of revelry. An inspiring speech from special guest Pat Lynch, president of the Police Benevolent Association of New York City, reminded that the Ball is a night filled with heroes.

The combined honor guard from agencies throughout Palm Beach and Martin counties gave the Ball the feeling of a National Police Week event. Resplendent in a designer tux, Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw submitted a promise that gave the night the cache of a testimonial dinner. PBCPBA President John Kazanjian presented remarks that enabled the event to emanate a bit of blue lives matter. And there were enough toasts to make it all feel like a big, fat police wedding with quips that



A combined honor guard from Palm Beach and Martin county agencies posted the colors.

truly busted Ball attendees and ensured that everybody had, well, a ball.

"Listen, in addition to raising money for the charity fund to support our scholarships and any members who face catastrophic events, what we do here is that we like to recognize everybody's contributions and service," Kaz declared. "That's why we established the Police Officers' Ball 12 years ago."

Kaz recognized the work of PBCPBA Special Events Coordinator Wendy Coleman, who spearheaded the planning of this year's Ball weekend. That began with the annual clambake the night before. With its hearty helpings of food, friendship, benevolence and freshly minted cigars, the clambake continues to serve as the ultimate rehearsal dinner.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24





Pat Lynch, president of the Police Benevolent Association of New York City, presented the keynote address.

#### LEGENDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

No Ball would be as festive as it is without the contributions of Pete Tartaglione, who once again compiled the most illustrious silent auction in the fundraising world. Among the items representing the Dolphins, Florida and Florida State, Kaz's beloved Boston Red Sox and Tartaglione's New York Yankees' passion was one piece that seemed to inspire the passion of all law enforcement fans in the room where the auction and reception were moved to get out of the humidity of the resort's banquet facility lobby.

An American flag hand-carved onto a wooden canvas drew a series of significant bids. It even topped autographed photos from such celebrities as Dwayne Wade, U2, Eric Clapton, Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods and Secretariat. (Not sure which hoof Secretariat used to sign his photo.)

When dinner seating was called, Master of Ceremonies Allan Ortman called in the honor guard and then the PBSO Pipes & Drums. The band followed the national anthem with an



PBCPBA Vice President Rick McAfee (center) presented a proclamation in honor of PBSO K-9 Cigo to his partner, Deputy Ryan Soriano (left).

eight-minute set that finished with a flurry of fancy stickwork from its drumline. This was just the warmup for the coming events.

Kaz then presented the first recognition of this year's Ball. K-9 Cigo was lost in the line of duty on Christmas Eve 2018. PBA Vice President Rick McAfee conferred a proclamation to Cigo's partner, PBSO Deputy Ryan Soriano, and Deputy Alex Nunez, who was also responded to the call when Cigo was shot and killed.

After the next recognition of an undercover PBSO deputy who shot in the head by gang members, Sheriff Bradshaw came to the podium for an unscheduled speech. And he submitted a challenge that brought the audience to a rousing ovation.

"Folks, keep your eyes open," he began. "I'm going to get together with chiefs in the county and reestablish a gang task force, and I'm going to kick their ass. They are not going to get away with it anymore."

That set the table for another tough-talk toast from Kaz. He recognized one of the PBA's greatest accomplishments of the past year: getting past the eight years of the Rick Scott administration by endorsing Governor Ron DeSantis and generating the votes that helped him get elected by that narrow margin.

DeSantis made the keynote speech at the Dade County PBA's annual gala in May, at which Dade County PBA President Steadman Stahl gifted the governor a blue line tie. Kaz was motivated to note that he gave the governor a gift of a different vein, and then reiterated to the crowd what the PBA support of the new governor means.

"I gave him a knife with a Palm Beach County PBA logo on it," he revealed. "Listen, we had his back, and this is definitely a guy who has our back going forward."

Kaz segued into a little stand-up comedy culminating with a bit that showed a picture of him and McAfee with their wives and Governor DeSantis and Florida First Lady Casey DeSantis. He quipped that his wife Joanne was standing to the left of the governor in the photo but you couldn't see her right hand. Where was it?

"She had his back," somebody shouted from the crowd.

And so it went. This portion of the evening culminated with the annual tribute to officers from Palm Beach and Martin counties who have been lost in the line of duty. The great recognition here was that for the seventh consecutive year, no PBCPBA members have been added to this tribute.

All that was needed now – before recognizing the members who would be honored as PBCPBA Officers of the Year – came from the keynote speaker. Ortman introduced Lynch as the "blue bulldog," to which Lynch noted that he has been called other types of dogs enough times that this was a welcome moniker.

Lynch came to the Ball to recognize what makes law enforcement officers and the unions that represent them so vital, so worthy of a night like this. His first tribute was to the officers.

"It's nice to be in a room full of like-minded people, with folks that understand," Lynch advocated. "We have a tradition of ser-



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Artist David Banegas (left), with PBCPBA President John Kazanjian, shows a special painting he created for the Ball.

vice, and I don't say that as a throwaway line. It's a tradition of doing what needs to be done for the folks we serve. There's no more noble profession than being the person who will go through the door when others shut it. We all know that if something happened outside that door, each and every one of us would rise to our feet and rush out the door."

He continued in a voice that turned up the decibel level and the message. Turning from side to side, Lynch spoke as if he were addressing a national political convention, at which he no doubt would be a valuable asset.

"There is one more profession that I believe is equally as noble," he added. "Sometimes, I talk to a new officer on the day he is sworn in and he asks, 'What is it that you do?' What a union does is that when all others walk out of the room, we walk in the room. When other folks put up their hands and say they're done, we put our hands on that cop's shoulder and say, 'Relax kid, we got this.' PBAs across the country are willing to stand with those officers when they're right, when they're wrong and when they are wrongfully accused. We do that because we are defending the



Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw receives recognition at the Ball.



The reception and silent auction were moved to a new location that provided a really cool start to the event.

defenders."

There could have been no more noteworthy message on this night, and no better way to bring on the final act of the night. It's called the Police Officers' Ball because it's for the police officers of Palm Beach and Martin counties. The final recognition was theirs in the form of the Officer of the Year Awards.

Turn the page to read all about those who were honored this year...

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## Team Work

### PBSO deputies get in sync to take down murderer on a rampage



■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL  
■ PHOTO COURTESY OF L.E.O. VIDEOS

Mayhem headed south on I-95 North near Lantana Road at 100 miles per hour on Feb. 7, 2018. The driver of this SUV had shot his girlfriend and had her in the car. Investigators would later discover that he was involved in a shooting in Boynton Beach two days earlier and another one in West Palm Beach a day before that. A medical examiner's report would reveal that he had tested positive for marijuana cannabinoids, cocaine and opioids.

Mayhem eventually crashed into several cars near Sixth Avenue South. That's where a Florida Highway Patrol officer and PBSO deputies converged on the vehicle. The trooper approached first and tasered the man with no result. He appeared to be reaching for a handgun in his lap.

"Complete bedlam," described Ian Sowers, one of the five PBSO deputies who responded almost instantly to the scene. "Vehicle parts were everywhere."

Rodny Oragene was riding with Sowers, working one of the PBSO street teams that day. Street teams are an extension of patrol, a proactive street crimes unit that handles in-progress calls. Oragene and Sowers approached the SUV from the driver's side.

"In our position, we were not able to see the driver because of the air bag that was deployed," Oragene explained. "Deputy Connor had a better view than us. We maintained what we had, and we heard Deputy Connor scream, 'Gun, gun, gun.'"

Deputy Connor is Connor Haugh, who approached from the passenger side with Deputy Martin Gareau. They tried to lift the man out but he was pinned in the car. Haugh shouted at the driver to show his hands. As he later described it, the man ignored him and looked at him in what he expressed as an "ee-

**Officers of the Year:**  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Sheriff Connor Haugh  
Deputy Sheriff Martin Gareau  
Deputy Sheriff Ian Sowers  
Deputy Sheriff Joshua Plant  
Deputy Sheriff Rodny Oragene

rie" or "crazy" way.

"We had the car surrounded and started doing what we had to do with the suspect," Haugh added. "But he wasn't listening and then went for the gun. Unfortunately, I had to shoot him."

This PBSO street team had been looking for this suspect since the day before mayhem struck. Deputy Joshua Plant recognized that this was the vehicle that had been involved in the shooting two days earlier when the call came in. They all knew they had to act fast.

"You know the old saying. Two coincidences aren't a coincidence anymore," Gareau commented. "This guy would not have stopped. You don't have to be a deputy a long time to know that."

Added Plant: "That dude was out of his mind. The look in his eyes...it could have been a lot worse."

These five PBSO deputies shared the Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Year Award, and had it not been for all five rushing to the scene and the response of several others, it would have been a lot worse. They deflected the recognition to each other, which reveals so much about the sheriff's department.

PBSO will never have just one PBA officer of the year or rarely have even a lone officer of the month. Over the years, the common denominator in all of these responses that earn distinction and recognition – and, more importantly, save lives – has been teamwork.

So, it wasn't a coincidence that five deputies arrived at this scene almost simultaneously.

"Normally, we travel in a wolfpack," Plant assured. "So, when there's one of us, there's usually four or five of us."

The entire response lasted about a minute, according to Plant. And all five deputies who responded to this incident reasoned that their ability to coordinate such a successful response resulted from their training.

"We just feed off each other," added Oragene, who has been with PBSO for 15 years. "We communicate and work perfectly well together."

After accepting the award and receiving the standing ovation from those who filled the ballroom of the PGA National Resort to capacity, the group gathered to reflect back 16 months on the incident. Certainly, the honor of being the officers of the year was off the charts. That's why a few of these deputies forsook their Class A uniforms for tuxedos.

"I'm super-pumped that we received this award," confirmed Plant, who has been with PBSO for 11 years. "But, it's kind of bittersweet, too. You know what I mean? Somebody's life was taken. I get that we signed up for this, but in the same sense, a woman is dead. But like I said, it could have been a lot worse."

The night provided a certain sense of validation for Gareau.

In a twist on the circle of life, he had worked for many years as a golf teaching professional and even did a tour working at the PGA National Resort. He came to PBSO six years ago, and while the response might not have been what he signed up for, he knew he was ready for it.

"I look back at how important it is when the trainers and all those officers who have a lot of experience tell you that under stress, you're going to revert to your training," Gareau said. "I don't want to say that you have to go through something like this to understand, but it's true. It's really, really true. For all those older officers who have been around, we should listen to them. We're all going to react differently, but there was not one guy there who hesitated."

Haugh, of course, didn't hesitate, as he was trained to do. In settings like the PBA Police Officers' Ball, where bravery and valor are revered and applauded, the loudest ovation tends to be accorded to the officer who takes out the bad guy. Especially a bad guy like the one in this incident.

But Haugh, who has been with the sheriff's office for three years, after working 10 years for another agency, was more than content to pay that adulation forward to what he felt was the foundation for this response. And every other one in PBSO.

"I came to this agency for the opportunity to have a little more training than the average person," he shared. "That's what is great about this agency. We get the opportunity to train for events like this, and if we have to do something, we do it. It's an honor working for an agency like this and having the sheriff we do."



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## *A shocking fire rescue*

### Sheriff's deputies encounter resistant victim bent on suicide

Dark smoke was billowing from a Martin County residence off Kanner Highway when Martin County Sheriff's Office Deputies Devanand Persad, William Baker and Sergeant Timothy Baltes arrived on scene.

**Officers of the Year:**  
First Runners-up  
Martin County Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Sheriff Devanand Persad  
Deputy Sheriff William Baker III  
Sergeant Timothy Baltes

This was not the first time that the deputies had been dispatched to assist fire-rescue efforts on a burning building, but their response turned urgent when neighbors began to yell that a person remained inside.

With the help of neighbors, Baltes and Persad located the window of the large residence where a woman was standing, surrounded by smoke. The deputies assured the victim that they were there to save her but were surprised to find that this woman in peril did not want to be rescued.



"We grab ahold of her and she looks at us and says, 'Leave me alone...let me die,'" Baltes recounted. "Then, she dropped all her weight down, straight down against the window."

As shocking as this response was, the deputies did not hesitate. Baltes leaned into the window, putting himself in danger to grab the woman, despite her resistance.

"She was trying to pull away," Baltes noted. "We were just holding on until we could get more hands there for leverage to get her out the window."

When Baker joined the scene, they had all the strength they needed as Baltes, Baker and Persad worked together to pull the woman out of the burning building, saving her life and putting an end to an unexpected suicidal quest.

"There were four or five gas cans around the house," Baltes shared. "It's probably one of the quirkiest things I've ever seen."

Once safely on the ground, fire rescue arrived with a stretcher to take the woman for treatment. She was later arrested for arson.

This unconventional rescue may have been a first for Persad, Baker and Baltes, but the deputies responded with their natural instinct to protect and serve, no matter the situation.

The Martin County Sheriff's Office deputies were recognized as first runners-up at the Palm Beach County PBA Police Officers' Ball for their brave efforts and commitment to saving a life, regardless of the circumstance.

"I wouldn't have changed a thing," Baltes confirmed at the ball. "I think any one of us would have responded the same way. In a moment of time when there's a need there, everybody just naturally comes together as a team."



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## *Collision course of action*

### MCSO Marine Deputy Michael Libasci didn't hesitate after witnessing a boat crash

■ JOSHUA SIGMUND

The five members of the Martin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) marine unit proudly keep their aquatic-enthused citizens safe in the water 24/7.

#### **Officer of the Year: Second Runner-Up MCSO Deputy Sheriff Michael Libasci**

So, suffice it to say, Deputy Michael Libasci was excited for a rare day

off on April 3, 2018, when he took his personal boat out on the St. Lucie River.

"I was planning on fishing for the day, but I didn't quite make it that far," Libasci recalls.

Well before the 15-year veteran was able to cast his first line, he heard a loud crash that quickly proved no officer is ever truly off duty.

"It was bad enough to warrant turning around and immediately responding to help out if I could," he describes, "and that's what I did."

Apparently, two vessels were in a crossing situation but a third vessel happened to be blocking the view of each from the other. By the time the middle vessel got out of the way, the other two were going too fast and had no time to avoid the inevitable collision.

Arriving at the scene of the accident, Libasci inquired if everyone was OK.

"To my surprise, they said, 'No, we need help,'" he reports, noting that there were three people with injuries of varying severity.

Libasci's first priority was to ensure that no one had fallen overboard, which no one had. Assessing the situation further, he observed a man lying unconscious on the bottom of one of the boats.

"He was bleeding profusely from his head, his leg was obviously broken, he was unresponsive and generally pretty beat up," Libasci had evaluated, as he tied his boat to the vessel and boarded in order to render first aid. "I approached and said, 'Sir, can you hear me? Are you OK?' but he wasn't answering."

Due to the head trauma, Libasci was hesitant to move the man, but the victim's face was in a pool of water that had



accumulated as the boat began to capsize. Priority number one then became extracting the victim from the immediate danger.

"If he can't breathe, he's going to die," Libasci explains. "Any neck or spine injury is secondary."

After flipping the victim over and opening his airway, the man quickly began breathing on his own.

"He took a big gasp, and it was the best feeling in the world to say, 'Thank God, he's breathing,' but he still wouldn't answer me," Libasci relates.

At that point, the deputy began multitasking. He hailed the vessel's captain and asked for a towel or shirt...something to stop the massive amount of blood flowing from the victim's head. While he applied pressure on the wound and continued to talk to the victim, who was slowly starting to come around, Libasci placed a call to the sheriff's office dispatch.

"I said who I am, where I'm at, what I got, and I need rescue now at Sandsprit Park, which is the closest place we could go," he informs. "Then, with one hand, I held his hand and talked to him to comfort him and keep him alert, and with the other, I'm trying to stop the bleeding.

And that's what I did until we got help."

It was about 15-20 minutes from the time of the accident until the victim was on dry land and on his way to the hospital. Unfortunately, a few days later, the victim succumbed to his injuries.

"Knowing after the fact that he passed away...that was hurtful and difficult," Libasci acknowledges. "But these are the things that happen."

Outcome aside, what was undeniable were Libasci's heroic and immediate actions that day. It's why the Palm Beach County PBA awarded him at the 2018 gala.

"Honestly, it's bittersweet," he admits about the recognition. "It was a very stressful situation with some severe injuries and a lot of blood, and I was really hoping for a better outcome for him."

Nonetheless, Libasci was touched by the gesture. "It's an honor and very humbling to be recognized by your peers. But honestly, I can tell you 100 percent that every law enforcement officer in this room would have done the same exact thing that I did," he said during the ceremony. "There's no second thought. I just saw a bad situation and I turned around and tried to help."



# Casting away for a cause

Sights, scenes and the daily catch from the Team Sargent K.D.W. fishing tournament



The morning was young but Rybovich Marina was full of action on June 29, as hundreds of Palm Beach County PBA members, families and avid fishermen loaded up the boats for a day of competitive fishing.

The officers and other participants all had hopes of reeling in a prize-winning fish, but even stronger than their drive to win was their mission to remember and celebrate the life of West Palm Beach Police Captain Danny Sargent.

The 10th annual Team Sargent K.D.W. Fishing Tournament has become a yearly tradition for many who knew or worked with Danny Sargent, along with many others who learned about Sargent's battle with Lou Gehrig's disease, which ended in his tragic death on Nov. 5, 2011.

"I actually used to work for him," shared PBCPBA Treasurer Lou Penque, who is a regular participant in the tournament. "This was a tournament we started as a fundraiser for his

medical expenses."

Ten years later, the fundraiser now benefits the Palm Beach County Police Athletic League and West Palm Beach Police Explorers program.

After a morning at sea, the boats returned with many king mackerel, dolphin fish and wahoo on ice, waiting to be judged.

Fishermen and women were judged in categories including first overall fish and first-, second- and third-place king, dolphin and wahoo fish. Awards also were given to the first-place youth and lady fishermen.

Prizes included fishing packages from tournament host and primary sponsor Connley Fishing.

PBA members and other participants including the Sargent family enjoyed an afternoon lunch and celebration together in memory of one PBC Sargent that will never be forgotten.



2019 Connley Fishing "TEAM SARGENT" KDW Fishing Tournament  
In memory of 607570 Captain Danny Sargent

**RYBOVICH** **CONNLEY**

**LEADERBOARD**

Rank	Name	Species	Weight	Length	Species	Weight	Length
1st	Tommy & Lisa	King Mackerel	24.00	38.00	King Mackerel	24.00	38.00
2nd	Greg & Cheryl	King Mackerel	22.00	36.00	King Mackerel	22.00	36.00
3rd	Mike & Linda	King Mackerel	20.00	34.00	King Mackerel	20.00	34.00
4th	Mike & Linda	King Mackerel	18.00	32.00	King Mackerel	18.00	32.00
5th	Mike & Linda	King Mackerel	16.00	30.00	King Mackerel	16.00	30.00

Support Provided By: R.A.W. 2019 Angler, Art, Sea, Marine...





# Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Month Honorees

April 2019

## **PBSO Deputy Sheriff Luis Pacheco** **PBSO Deputy Sheriff Frederick Merkle Jr.** Nominated by PBSO Deputy Sheriff Joshua Kushel

In February, Deputy Sheriff Pacheco conducted a traffic stop in Mangonia Park. During the stop, Pacheco arrested a male and female for possession of crack cocaine and a controlled substance.

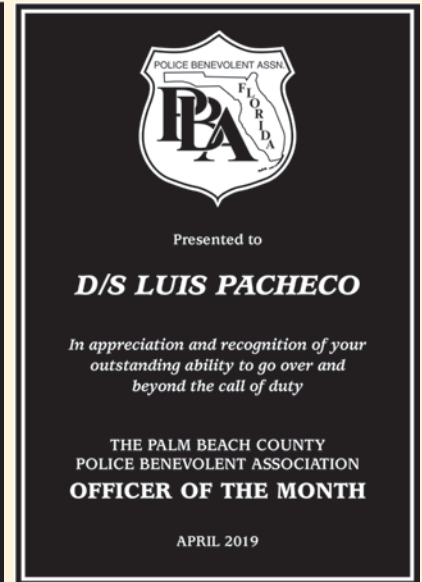
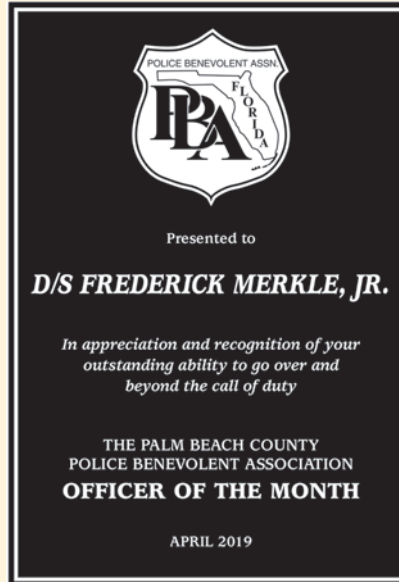
Pacheco developed a rapport with the two of them, and thanks to his patience and compassion, they gave him information about their narcotics supplier.

After weeks of surveillance and two trash pulls, Pacheco developed probable cause for a search warrant on the narcotics supplier's residence.

Agent Merkle and his K-9 showed up at the scene and located several kilos of heroin/fentanyl and cocaine. Merkle's K-9 alerted deputies to currency and narcotics within the supplier's storage unit.

A second search warrant for the storage unit was authorized and the following were seized: two firearms; ammunition; \$170,000 in U.S. currency; multiple kilos of heroin/fentanyl; cocaine and marijuana, along with a scale, baggies and other paraphernalia.

Pacheco did an outstanding job in developing a rapport and following through with his investigation. Merkle was also instrumental in taking down this drug den.



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Dave Williams PBA Administrator

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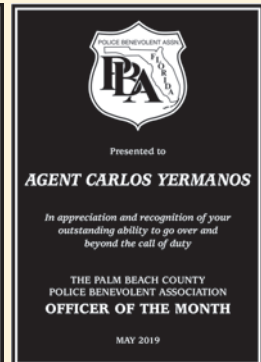
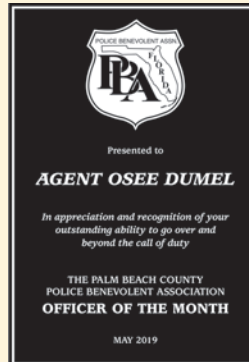
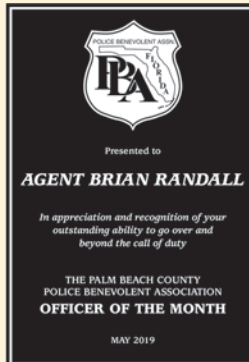
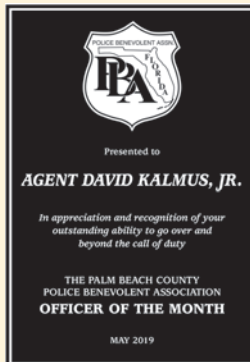
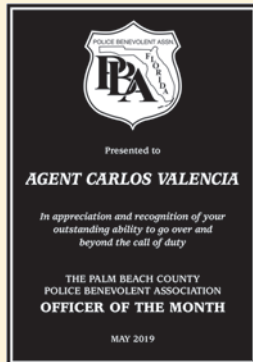


# Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Month Honorees

May 2019

**PBSO Agents Carlos Valencia, David Kalmus Jr., Brian Randall,  
Osee Dumel and Carlos Yermanos**

Nominated by committee



The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) narcotics unit, along with the DEA and FBI, were conducting a buy/bust operation.

Previously, an undercover officer had made four purchases of illegal drugs from this particular drug dealer (a known MS-13 gang member), and the agents had secured search warrants for both the home and vehicle.

Surveillance on the drug dealer revealed that he was alone in his car and in place for the drug buy. The agents moved in to take him down. As they approached in their truck, the dealer fired at the deputies and one of

his bullets struck Agent Kalmus in the face.

In fear for their lives, the other agents quickly returned fire. The agents moved in to secure the dealer and confirmed that he was deceased. Later, deputies discovered that the dealer still had a gun in his hands, with his finger on the trigger.

All five agents demonstrated immense bravery.

Thankfully, Kalmus made a full recovery and the other agents were unharmed in the exchange of gunfire.

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# Palm Beach County PBA Officer of the Month Honorees

June 2019

## West Palm Beach Agent Casey Goetz

Nominated by Lieutenant Joseph Herb

Agent Goetz was jogging back to the police department after returning his police rental car when he passed a woman walking near I-95 and Okeechobee Boulevard.

For some reason, Goetz looked back at the woman and saw her climbing over the railing, dangling her feet over the edge and opening her arms, about to jump down into traffic.

Goetz sprinted back to the woman, grabbed her and pulled her off the ledge. Goetz was in plainclothes as he held on to the woman and attempted to flag down help.

Luckily, Lieutenant Emily Wiggs saw him struggling with the female and pulled over to assist. The woman was Baker Acted.

Goetz's intuition and compassion saved this woman's life and prevented her from jumping off the guard rail onto I-95 traffic, where she could have caused death or serious injury to motorists.



Presented to

**AGENT CASEY GOETZ**

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outstanding ability to go over and  
beyond the call of duty*

THE PALM BEACH COUNTY  
POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION  
**OFFICER OF THE MONTH**

JUNE 2019

**Thank You**  
**Palm Beach County Police**  
**Benevolent Association &**  
**PBA Members**  
**For Your Commitment To**  
**The Safety Of Our**  
**Community And Dedication**  
**To Public Service!**



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- Licensed Realtor for 22 years
- PBA member since 1988
- 26 years On the Job
- Retired from Palm Beach Sheriff's Office February 2014 as a Sergeant-Law Enforcement. ID#3575.

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## 'He loved to serve'



**Charlie Nicastro**  
Retired Officer  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
Date of passing: June 21, 2019

Back in the 1980s, hungry police officers, many from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, would plan on spending their lunchtime at an old deli in Boca Raton. Behind the counter was a man who had come from New York and loved to serve.

In fact, Charlie Nicastro loved to serve so much that he eventually traded in his apron for a PBSO uniform. Even though he was older, Nicastro went to the Academy and became a PBSO deputy in 1986.

But that was not the extent of his service. Back in the 1990s, police officers in Palm Beach County did not have collective bargaining. Nicastro became a voice for officers' rights that served the PBCPBA in its initial growth to represent officers.

Charlie Nicastro passed away on June 21 at the age of 78.

"Charlie loved to take care of cops," PBA President John Kazanjian commented about one of the union's founding fathers. "He was a staunch member and voice, and we will certainly miss his dedication."

In a rare tribute, the PBA hosted a "Celebration of Life" on July 26 to honor Charlie. Members came with the mission of honoring life and celebrating love.

## 'An inspiration'



**Thomas Vassalotti**  
Captain  
PBSO  
Date of Passing: March 29, 2019

Thomas Vassalotti was an inspiration for corrections officers in the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. During his 27-year career, he worked his way up through the ranks to become a captain.

After a hard-fought battle with cancer, Thomas Michael Vassalotti passed away on March 29 at the age of 58. His wife of 21 years, Cheryl, was by his side. He had two children and two grandchildren.

Vassalotti joined PBSO in 1992, and in 1998, he was promoted to sergeant. In 2004, he was promoted to watch commander and in 2012, he was selected as the administrative lieutenant for the Corrections Support Services Division. In 2017, he made captain.

Thomas enjoyed outdoor activities and family vacations. Every year the family would enjoy taking trips to Disney World, the mountains and spending time with family and friends in the Carolinas and Tennessee.

## 'Extremely friendly'

**Donald Hopkins**  
Retired  
PBSO

Date of Passing: Feb. 8, 2019

Donald Hopkins' service did not stop with tours for PBSO. He loved to volunteer at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton.

"Don was an extremely friendly and interesting individual," PBSO coworker Sarah Ingate posted on Hopkins' memo-

rial site. "I volunteered with him a few times at Gumbo Limbo and he always showed me with enthusiasm the slipper lobster and his eel tattoo. His knowledge and positivity will be deeply missed."

Donald William "Hoppy" Hopkins died at the age of 80 in Boca Raton.

# Pssst...want to buy some weed? Got coin?



STEVE  
OLSON

Of course, we're talking about a current hot topic — cannabis stocks and bitcoin!

During the past few months, we've had numerous clients and prospective clients ask our opinion on two trendy potential investments: cannabis stocks and bitcoin.

Do a Google search for either and you'll find hundreds, if not thousands, of articles on why cannabis and bitcoin are amazing and why "you too" should invest your retirement and life savings "now!"

Here are some facts and our objective opinion (but not investment advice!):

Let's start with cannabis. There are two broad categories of cannabis products: medical marijuana (currently legal in 33 U.S. states and several countries across the globe) and recreational marijuana.

Most can agree that the cannabis industry is rapidly growing and more likely than not, someone is going to make a lot of money in it. As an investor, you might be asking yourself how you can get in on the action, and how much of your portfolio should you be investing in this kind of thing?

## How can you get in on the action?

The easiest way to invest in cannabis is through the public markets, specifically Canadian exchanges. You can research and purchase individual companies directly involved in cannabis (i.e., companies that grow or distribute cannabis) or companies indirectly involved in cannabis (i.e., companies that might produce fertilizer and happen to supply said fertilizer to the cannabis industry).

We feel like picking the right cannabis company to buy is kind of like picking the right internet company to buy 20 years ago. If you owned 100 percent of a Nasdaq index fund and bought it at the height of the market, it would have taken you nearly 17 years to recover after the bubble burst, while everyone thought that the year-over-year gains of the dot-com industry would never end!

Who would have guessed at the time that Amazon, a company that sold books, would far surpass all of their strategic partners? Today, hindsight is 20/20. Our point: There are a handful of companies destined to be big players in the cannabis space. But identifying which ones is incredibly difficult and takes quite a bit of luck.

So, what can you do? Diversify your "bets." And, if you've talked to me or my team in the past, you have never heard me use the word bet in an investment conversation. That says something. Diversified, strategic, long-term investments should be far from a bet or gamble!

If you feel you have the risk capacity and propensity to invest in cannabis stock, our advice is to diversify your investment and not put too many eggs in one basket. This can be done through purchasing a cannabis exchange-traded fund (ETF) or multiple individual stock positions.

## How much should I invest?

Let's look at Vanguard, the largest mutual fund provider in the industry, with roughly \$5.3 trillion in total assets.

Vanguard currently owns about \$140 million in cannabis stocks. On the surface, \$140 million sounds like a large investment, but when you calculate that against their total assets, it represents 0.002 percent of their total portfolio.

Let's put that number into perspective; a 0.002 percent position

in cannabis stocks based on a \$1,000,000 portfolio would equal \$20.

We believe cannabis is a very speculative industry and that you shouldn't invest more money than you are willing to lose.

## On to bitcoin and cryptocurrencies

Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies were all anyone and everyone was talking about in 2017. There are two broad categories of cryptocurrency products: individual coins — the most popular being bitcoin — and companies that invest in and/or use blockchain technology.

The investment case for cryptocurrencies or coins is weak. Unlike stocks and bonds, currencies generate no cash flows such as interest payments or dividends that can explain their prices.

If you invest in bitcoin, for example, the only way you will make money is if someone comes along after you and that person is willing to pay you more for your bitcoin than you paid for it.

The only reason a person would come along and pay you anything for it is if he or she thinks someone will come along and buy it from him or her for even more, and so on and so forth. This party will eventually come to an end and the price will correct.

But what happens if, hypothetically, a major central bank or government comes out with its own cryptocurrency? Or, what if a regulatory body starts heavy tax enforcement on these transactions, or starts enforcing federal laws against the creation of currency in competition with the U.S. government? This could be disastrous.

There are so many things out of our control in this space, and any investment made in cryptocurrencies can be nothing more than speculation.

Blockchain, however, is a different animal. A building block of cryptocurrency, blockchain has other applications that can be very beneficial in many different sectors. We feel blockchain technology is very promising.

But how does someone invest in blockchain? You could invest in companies that are allocating resources to research and development in the blockchain space. You could also invest in ETFs that focus on investing in companies developing blockchain applications.

Now what? Invest carefully. For most investors, particularly those investing retirement resources, the best approach would be to avoid marijuana stocks and bitcoin entirely. These stocks simply aren't a good fit for conservative investors.

Marijuana stocks and bitcoin are both risky and highly volatile. Putting too much of your investment portfolio into any marijuana stock, ETF or cryptocurrency isn't wise.

You might want to consider starting with only a small investment. If the growth you were counting on doesn't materialize, you should reevaluate your assumptions.

We're happy to help you evaluate your individual situation to determine if this is a reasonable or suitable proposition for you. Contact our office with any questions or to discuss.

*Steve Olson, founder and managing member of Atlantic Wealth Partners, has more than a decade of experience in focused tax planning, legal strategy interpretation, investment management and advisory services to wealthy individuals and families throughout Florida. Steve is an alumnus of Old Dominion University and the University of South Florida, where he studied finance and criminology.*



# Thank-You Notes

## TO THE PBA

Dear PBA Scholarship  
Committee Members,

Thank you for the generous  
Scholarship I received for my  
sophomore year at USF. It is  
greatly appreciated and will  
help me with many university  
expenses.

My most sincere thanks to this  
committee, the donors, and  
all parties involved that help  
make this scholarship possible.

Thank you again,  
Elizabeth Combs



June 21, 2019

Police Benevolent Association  
2100 North FL Mango St.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Dear PBA,

I want to express my gratitude for your generous investment into my future. Thank you for the opportunity to interview and be selected as the Brian Chappell Memorial Scholarship Award recipient.

In the fall of 2019, I will be attending Southern University and A&M College majoring in Mechanical Engineering with hopes of becoming a successful engineering professional. The generous award provided will help in paying my educational expenses and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time on studying.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work very hard to use the award to the best of my ability.

Sincerely,

Jaydon Graves

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaydon Graves", is written over a horizontal line.

Dear PBA,

I am incredibly grateful  
to have been selected as a  
recipient of the Brian Chappell  
Memorial scholarship. This money  
will help me continue my studies  
at the University of Florida!

Sincerely,

Abigail Kallil



DEAR PBA EXECUTIVE BOARD,  
Thank you so much for the  
generous scholarship! The  
amount will help me begin my  
educational journey at FAU.  
Thank you for everything you  
do!

From,  
Claire Keane

Dear PBA Board Members,

I would like to give a big  
Thank You to the PBA for this  
scholarship. Your support will allow  
me to fully focus on classes this year.

Thank you,  
Amalie McManis

To the PBA Board,  
Thank you so much for the  
scholarship! It means so much to  
me for you guys to support me  
in my further education in college.  
Keep up the Amazing work!

- Colton McGarragh



Dear John Kazanjian,

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Kaitlin Kazanjian Memorial Scholarship. Thank you for your generosity, which will allow me to pay for schooling, books, and housing. I am truly thankful for this opportunity.

Thank you,

Taylor Murray

July 2019

Thank you very much for the Scholarship. I will be attending The University of Central Florida this summer and I will be using the funds for textbooks and living expenses.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Reid

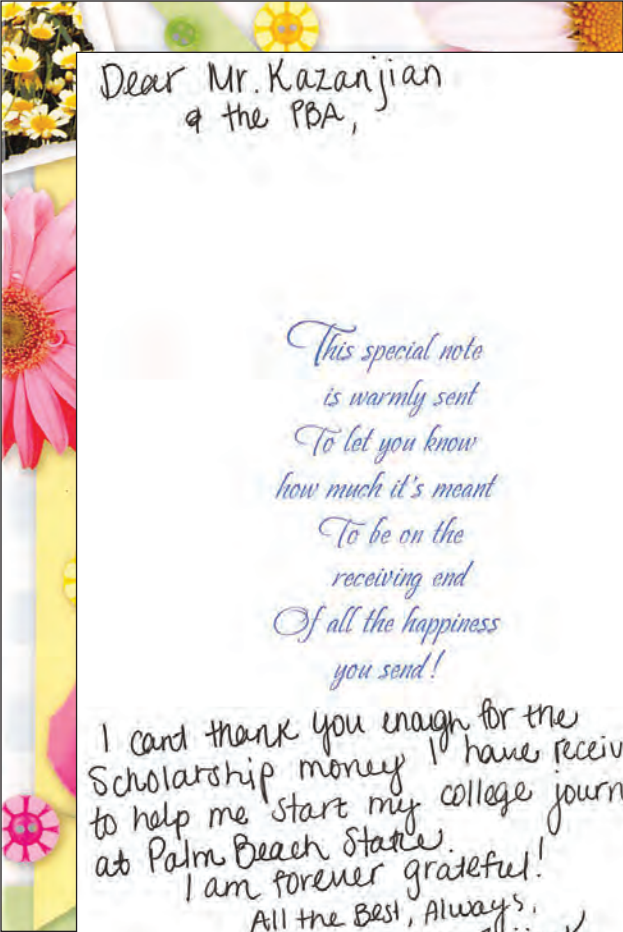
July 2019

PBA Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for this year's scholarship! I will be going into my senior year at the University of South Florida. This scholarship will be extremely helpful in covering my expenses for my next step of applying to Nursing school.

Sincerely,

Taylor Reid



Dear Mr. Kazanjian  
& the PBA,

*This special note  
is warmly sent  
To let you know  
how much it's meant  
To be on the  
receiving end  
Of all the happiness  
you send!*

I can't thank you enough for the  
Scholarship money I have received  
to help me start my college journey  
at Palm Beach State.  
I am forever grateful!  
All the Best, Always,  
Kaylee Zajack

July 8, 2019

Dear PBA Scholarship Committee,

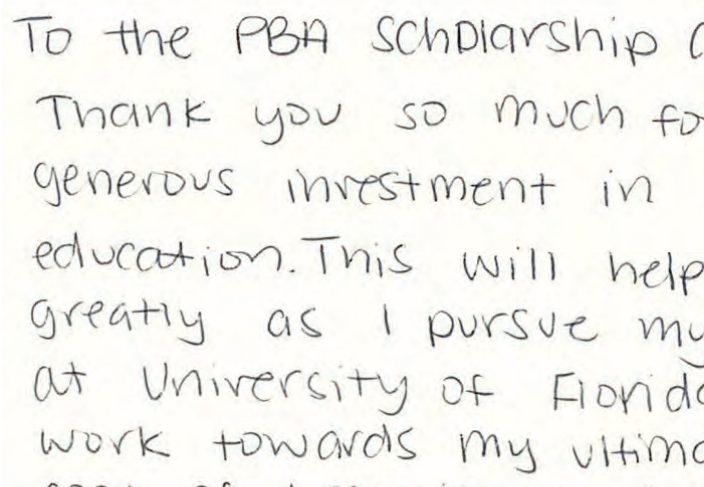
I would like to present a tremendous thank you for the generous scholarship awarded to me. I am honored and thankful to be one of the applicants chosen for this award.

As a second-year Nursing student at the University of North Florida, this scholarship provides me with a great amount of financial assistance. I will use this scholarship money to expand my educational journey with the long-term goal of becoming a Doctor of Nursing Practice. This generous award allows me to push my education to the maximum capacity in order to one day be able to impact the lives of those patients and families that I will come in contact with.

I hope to one day be able to help others take steps towards achieving their goals in the same way that this award will help me. Thank you for your kind scholarship which will now help me become one-step closer to achieving my goal.

Respectfully,

  
Kaleigh Naujoks



To the PBA Scholarship Committee,  
Thank you so much for the  
generous investment in my  
education. This will help me  
greatly as I pursue my degree  
at University of Florida and  
work towards my ultimate  
goal of becoming a forensic  
accountant.

Courtney Baer



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